Economies in the working of the various departments of Government

* 245 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to suggest ways and means to effect economies in the working of the various departments of Government; and

(b) if so, the names of members of the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) Yes, Sir. The High Power Committee for Economy and Administrative Reorganisation set up recently will look into this aspect of administration also. A brief note[a] on the scope of work of the Committee has been separately placed on the table of the House.

(b) The members of the Committee are—

(1) Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister.

(2) Sri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Industries.

(3) Sri V. Ramaiah, Minister for Food.

(4) Sri T. A. Varghese, I.C.S. (Retired).

(5) Sri G. Ramachandran, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Finance Department (Member-Secretary of the Committee)

SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR: Sir, the Community Project works also must be gone into by this Committee. I may tell the Hon. the Chief Minister that this was particularly discussed with the Prime Minister when I was in Delhi last time. I hope this also will be gone into.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, economies can be effected if matters are disposed of as quickly as possible. We, in this Government, generally follow the old British pattern of passing papers through several hands before coming to any decision. Will this procedure be modified? Will this question also be considered by the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I am not very much conversant with the old British pattern of which the hon. Member is quite aware. But we do take expeditious steps to do things. We do not discard the old system because it is old. We do take the good features in the old system.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER: Sir, is there any proposal to nominate experienced non-officials to the Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: There is no such proposal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

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[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 399.